Places without rail link

4034. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any asessment of various district headquarters and important places, still not linked with rail lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would make such an assessment;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Most of the important towns and district headquarters in the country have been provided with access to rail services. The expansion of the rail network is a continuous and need based exercise that is undertaken by taking an integrated view of the nation's requirement and keeping the overall resource availability in mind. While doing so, all representations/proposals received from the State Government, public representatives, user agencies, and other public interest groups/individuals are also kept in mind. At present about 8500 Kms. of new rail lines are sanctioned at a cost of approx. Rs. 27,650 Crores.

Shyamsundar-Chanchai rail line

4035. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final location survey work on the Shyamsundar-Chanchai new rail line as a material modification to the ongoing Bankura Damodar River Railway Gauge conversion Project has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the Shyamsundar-Chanchai Halt is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The final location survey for extension for BDR